



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 22 August 2007

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is
ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS
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Daily Highlights

- The FBI released a bulletin late Monday, August 20, that includes photographs of two men who have recently been seen acting suspiciously aboard Washington State ferries, taking photos of parts of the boats among other activities. (See item [12](#))
- The Department of Homeland Security has agreed to launch a project with Vermont that will enhance the security of state driver's licenses, which could potentially serve as an acceptable alternative document for crossing the United States' land and sea borders. (See item [15](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *August 21, Platts Energy Bulletin* — **Yemen will build a nuclear power plant.** Yemen will build a nuclear power plant, the country's energy minister, Mustafa Yahia Bahrán, said Saturday, August 18. According to Bahrán, Yemen needs to diversify its energy supplies and will therefore order a power reactor from a foreign vendor, the reports said. In June, Yemen's president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, discussed nuclear cooperation with French leaders during an official visit in France, reports said. Western diplomats said August 20 that the U.S. and members of the European Union (EU) would likely support Yemen's bid for a power reactor. Since 2004, Yemen has supported the U.S. counterterrorism initiatives in the Persian Gulf and

Middle East, and is rapidly developing economic relations with EU states.

Source: <http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/8215600.xml?sub=Nuclear&p=Nuclear/News>

2. *August 21, Reuters* — **Oil tumbles below \$70 as Hurricane Dean loses strength.** Oil tumbled nearly \$2 a barrel to fall below \$70 on Tuesday, August 21, as Hurricane Dean lost strength, easing concerns of supply disruptions from Mexico and the U.S. Gulf where oil installations were threatened by the powerful storm. U.S. crude was down \$1.70 to \$69.42 a barrel, the first time it has fallen below \$70 since July 2. It had dropped 86 cents in the previous session after forecasts showed that Dean was moving towards Mexico and would skirt the U.S. Gulf that is home to half of the country's refining capacity and a third of its oil production. Dean, the Atlantic season's first major storm, had caused mass evacuations of personnel at many of Mexico's oil and gas wells, and forced the country to suspend oil exports from three of its major oil ports. The U.S. government also said it was ready to make emergency oil loans from the nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserve to refineries, if necessary, to help offset any loss from Mexico, which supplies 13 percent of U.S. imports.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/2007-08-21-oil-prices_N.htm

3. *August 20, CNN* — **Utah mine too unstable to keep digging, experts say.** A panel of experts said the Crandall Canyon coal mine is so unstable that it would be "unacceptable" to resume digging through it to save six trapped miners. Richard Stickler, head of the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration, said eight experts examined the condition of the central Utah mine and found "overwhelming" evidence that unpredictable seismic activity and unstable mine pillars make it too dangerous to continue rescue efforts. The rescue effort was halted Thursday, August 16, after three workers were killed and six injured in a cave-in. But Stickler said if there is any indication the miners are alive, they would consider digging an opening down to them from above and try to get them out with a rescue capsule. So far, crews have dug four bore holes into the mine, finding no signs of the miners and too little oxygen to sustain life.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/08/20/mine.unstable/index.html>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

4. *August 21, Waco Tribune-Herald (TX)* — **Downtown evacuated after ammonia gas leak.** Officials are investigating after clouds of noxious ammonia gas shut down a Central Texas courthouse square Monday morning, August 20. Workers at the Bosque County Courthouse in Meridian, as well as neighboring businesses and homes, were evacuated or shut down twice in an hour as a food plant released the gas, said Dewey Ratliff, Bosque County emergency management coordinator. The gas came from a safety release valve on a refrigeration unit at the Double B Foods company that "popped off" and released a "pretty significant amount" of the gas into the air, Ratliff said. Officials scrambled to evacuate the area and closed people indoors in a maneuver called "shelter in place," he said. The gas dissipated in 20 to 25 minutes, but after 15 minutes of clear air, another larger gas cloud was released from the plant, Ratliff said. Officials allowed people back downtown about 30 minutes after the second cloud of gas was released.

Source: <http://www.wacotrib.com/news/content/news/stories/2007/08/21/08212007wacammonia.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *August 21, U.S. Air Force* — **Defense procurement director promotes balanced acquisition.**

The Department of Defense's (DoD) top acquisition executive shared his views with contract specialists regarding strategic sourcing designed to maximize efficiency in how the federal government procures goods and services August 16 at Brooks City–Base, TX. Shay Assad, the director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, held local town hall meetings to discuss DoD initiatives and strategies for improving support to America's warfighters while balancing the need to spend taxpayers' money more effectively. His nationwide tour of military installations to talk directly to the federal acquisition community was made in response to his commitment as DoD's primary change agent for the implementation of strategic sourcing for goods and services. "We (DoD) spend more than \$150 billion a year on services. We've got to get it right in terms of being extremely focused on the kinds of goods and services we buy," Assad said. The DoD acquisition community is developing tools to conduct market research to assist the contracting workforce in finding a fair and equitable price for goods and services.

Source: <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123065287>

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Banking and Finance Sector

6. *August 21, Websense Security Labs* — **Phishing Alert: Standard Life Investments.**

Websense Security Labs has received reports of a phishing attack that targets customers of Standard Life Investments. Users receive a spoofed e–mail message claiming that their accounts have been temporarily suspended, because Standard Life's new security system has detected several attempts to access the accounts. The e–mail provides a link to a phishing site, which attempts to collect personal and account information. This phishing site is hosted in Australia and was down at the time of this alert.

Source: <http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=797>

7. *August 21, Websense Security Labs* — **Phishing Alert: Merrill Lynch.**

Websense Security Labs has received reports of a phishing attack that targets customers of Merrill Lynch. Users receive a spoofed e–mail message warning of a Trojan virus hidden in a Shockwave video has been spread around the world via e–mail. This message requests that Merrill Lynch customers log on to their accounts to allow the Merrill Lynch servers to check for infection. The e–mail provides a link to a phishing site, which attempts to collect personal and account information. This phishing site is hosted in Turkey and was up at the time of this alert.

Source: <http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=796>

8. *August 21, Associated Press* — **Wells Fargo fixes computer problem that disabled banking services.**

Wells Fargo & Co. announced early Tuesday, August 21, it has fixed a computer glitch that some customers said left them unable to access their online bank accounts or get cash from ATMs. Wells Fargo clients complained of widespread service problems beginning

Sunday afternoon, lasting in some cases for nearly 24 hours. At Wells Fargo's branches on Monday, customer service representatives asked some customers to come back later in the week because the bank couldn't process mortgage applications and other paperwork. But Avid Modjtabai, head of technology for the nation's fifth largest bank, said on Tuesday that problems with the company's online banking services lasted less than two hours, and customers never lost the ability to make basic ATM transactions, including withdrawing cash and making deposits at Wells Fargo–branded ATMs. San Francisco–based Wells Fargo would not say how many customers or machines were affected by the glitch. The site also slowed down the corporate Websites and created delays at some of the bank's 6,000 branches nationwide.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070821/wells_fargo_outage.html?.v=1

9. *August 20, eWeek* — **Report: 63 percent of malware emerges from U.S. sites.** U.S.–based Websites hosting malware are responsible for the majority of malware distributed on the Internet, according to a report by security company Cyveillance. The company's "Online Financial Fraud and Identity Theft Report" found that Web surfers visiting sites based in the United States are more at risk from malware attacks and online identity theft than visitors to sites based in other countries, with more than 63 percent of malware distributed to visitors via tainted U.S.–based Websites. In addition, 25 percent of malware–hosting sites, where the actual binary malware files are hosted and served up, are based in the United States. China leads the way with 34 percent of malware–hosting sites, the report found. Malware drop sites collect sensitive and personally identifiable information; 50 percent of such sites are hosted in the United States, the report found. The Cyveillance report also recorded a 20 percent increase in the aggregate quantity of brands targeted, indicating that phishers continue to change targets.

Report: http://www.cyveillance.com/web/docs/WP_Online_Theft_Q2_2007.pdf

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1895.2173456.00.asp>

10. *August 20, Department of Justice* — **Man sentenced to over six years for fraud and identity theft.** U.S. District Judge Andre M. Davis sentenced Ronald Steven Williams, II, age 32, of Severn, MD, on Monday, August 20, to 75 months in prison, followed by five years of supervised release for mail fraud and aggravated identity theft, announced United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein. Judge Davis also ordered Williams to make full restitution and to forfeit any remaining assets. The full amount of restitution is still to be determined, but is over \$120,000. According to the statement of facts presented at his guilty plea, from June 29, 2001 to July 14, 2006, Williams engaged in a number of fraud schemes using the social security numbers and identities of others without their knowledge to obtain personal and corporate extensions of credit for cars, homes, consumer goods and general credit accounts.

Source: http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/md/Public-Affairs/press_releases/press07/SevernManSentencedtooverSixYearsforUsingMultipleSSNsandIdentitiestoObtainLoans.html

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

11. *August 21, KXTV (CA)/Associated Press* — **Boy hit by ice that fell from plane.** A 10–year–old boy in Modesto, CA, was injured Monday morning, August 20, when a chunk of

ice the size of a bowling ball fell from the sky, crashed through the family's roof and struck him on the head as he sat on a couch. Carlos Mendez, who lives across the street from the Modesto airport, has a bump on his head, but appears otherwise to be OK. "A little block of ice hit him in the back of the head," his mother said. "I think he was more scared." Authorities are working with the Federal Aviation Administration to find out where the chunk of ice came from.

Source: http://www.wusa9.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=61937

12. *August 21, KING5 (WA)* — **FBI searching for two suspicious ferry passengers.** The FBI released a bulletin late Monday, August 20, that includes photographs of two men who have been seen acting suspiciously aboard Washington State ferries recently. One of the photos shows the men side-by-side and the other is a solo shot of one of them. They were snapped by a ferry employee who thought the pair acted suspiciously. "They had more than the average interest in the working parts of the ferry, the layout of the ferry, the size of it — more than you would see in normal passenger," said FBI spokesperson Robbie Burroughs. The FBI says the men were seen on more than one ferry and more than one run over the past several weeks. They were also taking photos of parts of the boat, which the agents won't reveal, but that apparently aroused the suspicions of passengers and crew alike. Security has been high since a 2004 risk assessment in which the FBI logged scores of suspicious incidents on state ferries and labeled them a top potential maritime target.

Source: http://www.king5.com/localnews/stories/NW_082007WAB_suspicious_ferry_passengers_TP.53aaa2a3.html

13. *August 20, Consumer Affairs* — **Billion-dollar LAX gate complex to serve giant jets.** It will take five years and \$1.2 billion but completion of a new 10-gate facility should be a big boon for the much-maligned Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). Poor roadway access, inadequate parking, cramped terminals, and long waits for both security and baggage have caused both airlines and passengers to look for alternative airports. The new docking station will be used primarily by large jets from international destinations. The new facility, located west of the Tom Bradley International Terminal, will be connected by an underground tunnel and people-mover. LAX is the nation's fifth-busiest airport, trailing Atlanta, Chicago O'Hare, New York's John F. Kennedy International, and Newark Liberty.

Source: http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2007/08/travel_lax.html

14. *August 20, Brisbane Times (Australia)* — **AFP increases Brisbane airport security.** Queensland, Australia, state police officers are now patrolling Brisbane airport in a move by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) to boost counter terrorism security and reduce airport crime. An extra 25 officers of the Queensland Police Service have been attached to the AFP's airport uniform police program for two years while another 31 officers will go to Cairns and Coolangatta airports over the next nine months. The deployments, part of a national program, are designed as a terrorism prevention measure and to reassure the traveling public and airport workers. AFP Brisbane Airport Commander Steve Grant said Brisbane was the latest airport in Australia to have the uniformed officers on patrol. "The state police bring a new dimension to a multi-tiered approach to policing with the airport precincts — and that is nationally across 11 airports," Grant said.

Source: <http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/news/news/afp-beefs-up-brisbane-airport-security/2007/08/20/1187462155252.html>

15. *August 20, Department of Homeland Security* — **Department of Homeland Security and Vermont team up to advance Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative.** The Department of Homeland Security agreed to launch a project with the state of Vermont that will enhance the security of state driver's licenses which could potentially serve as an acceptable alternative document for crossing the United States' land and sea borders. The Vermont project, much like the agreement reached with Washington State earlier this year, is one possible compliance alternative to Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) requirements. As announced in June, on January 31, 2008, U.S. and Canadian citizens will need to present either a WHTI-compliant document or a government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license, plus proof of citizenship such as a birth certificate, for admissibility into the United States. The state of Vermont will develop an enhanced driver's license that will provide their residents, who voluntarily apply and qualify, with a document that is acceptable for use at U.S. land and seaports. The enhanced driver's license will be slightly more expensive than a standard Vermont state driver's license and will require proof of citizenship, identity, and residence, as well as contain security features similar to a U.S. passport.
Source: http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1187646614580.shtm

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Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *August 20, The Advocate (CT)* — **Police investigate suspicious package sent to military recruitment office.** Police are investigating a suspicious package that was sent Monday, August 20, to the military recruitment office on Bedford Street in Stamford, CT -- a month after a similar package was sent to the same location. Police responded to the U.S. Army/U.S. Air Force recruiting station just after 11 a.m. EDT after learning of an envelope bearing unusual writing and containing batteries and other bomb making materials inside, police spokesperson Lt. Sean Cooney said.
Source: <http://www.stamfordadvocate.com/news/local/scn-sa-suspicious-package.0.3649770.story?coll=stam-news-local-headlines>

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Agriculture Sector

17. *August 21, Agence France-Presse* — **Netherlands widens bluetongue security zone.** Dutch authorities have extended a security zone to cover two thirds of the country following the discovery of new cases of the bluetongue virus in sheep, the agriculture ministry said Tuesday, August 21. The security zone now spreads from the south to Gramsbergen in the northeast, near the German border. It contains the cities of The Hague and Rotterdam but excludes the capital, Amsterdam. The disease has hit livestock in The Netherlands, Germany, Belgium and northern France in the past year after previously being confined to countries on the Mediterranean basin.
Source: http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=070821175640.3gss25w4&show_article=1
18. *August 20, Associated Press* — **Some Amish resist electronic ID tags for cattle.** Some Amish farmers say a state requirement that they tag cattle with electronic chips is a violation of their

religious beliefs. Last year, the state Department of Agriculture announced that Michigan cattle leaving farms must be tagged in the ear with electronic identification as part of an effort to combat bovine tuberculosis. In April, Glen Mast and other Amish farmers appeared before the state Senate Appropriations Committee, urging it to block the program. So far, the state has not forced the Amish to use the electronic tags but said they can wait until the animals arrive at an auction before having them applied. Animal identification has traditionally involved a plastic or metal tag, or tattoo. Electronic ID uses a radio frequency device with a number unique to each animal, and speeds up the ability to locate or trace animals.

Source: http://www.woodtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=6952115&nav=menu44_2

19. August 20, Agence France–Presse — China probably 'covered up' pig disease outbreaks.

Local authorities may have covered up outbreaks of a disease that has killed tens of thousands of pigs in China, the nation's chief vet said Sunday, August 19. The highly infectious blue–ear pig disease has killed 68,000 pigs across China and led to another 175,000 being slaughtered, Jia Youling, chief veterinary officer at the Ministry of Agriculture, told reporters. Some Western press reports have said the number of infected pigs is much higher than disclosed government figures, citing the dramatic spike in pork prices in China this year as evidence. A China–based adviser to the Food and Agriculture Organization, Guo Fusheng, told Agence France–Presse that the official tally of infected pigs was probably not accurate.

Source: http://www.forbes.com/markets/feeds/afx/2007/08/20/afx403789_9.html

20. August 17, CanWest News Service (Canada) — Lake algae kills livestock. Livestock are dying by the dozens southwest of Saskatoon, Canada, because of blue–green algae flourishing in the water. Ranchers in the Wiseton and Dinsmore area are scrambling to deal with the problem. Ivan Thomson said about 40 of his bison have died from drinking contaminated water, with the first fatality occurring about two weeks ago. It's primarily the breeding bulls and the heavier milking females that are dying, he said. "They're more active, so their systems require more moisture. Thomson has moved his livestock to different pastures, but the blue–green algae keep popping up. Some of his bison have died within 30 minutes of ingesting the water — while others have lived nearly two days after, he said. The blue–green algae have been found in lakes in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec.

Source: <http://www.canada.com/edmontonjournal/news/story.html?id=35a32c8e-f7da-46e5-abbf-1c216272ec8a>

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Food Sector

21. August 21, Houston Chronicle — Houston's ethnic food stores monitored for safety. Federal food police in Houston are used to confiscating bizarre concoctions. In the past year they've seized earthworms from China and untreated lentils from India. And they're still talking about the 2,000 pounds of duck and chicken feet illegally shipped to Houston from Vietnam. As the immigrant community in Houston continues to expand, so does the number of local ethnic markets where exotic — and sometimes contaminated or untreated — food products are sold, authorities say. Tom Baker, who supervises Houston inspectors assigned to a component of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, said his agents monitor more than 1,000 ethnic markets in Houston and surrounding counties, where merchants from Asia, Latin America, Africa, the

Middle East and Europe sell specialty products.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/front/5069879.html>

22. *August 20, USAgNet* — **China's list of suspended U.S. meat plants growing.** The list of U.S. meatpacking plants China has delisted has grown to 15, including eight plants delisted between August 7–17. The following plants are currently barred from exporting meat and poultry to China: Swift Pork Co., Worthington, MN; John Morrell & Co., Sioux Falls, SD; Cargill Meat Solutions, Beardstown, IL.; Cargill Meat Solutions, Ottumwa, IA; Tyson Fresh Meats, Waterloo, IA; Farmland Foods, Denison, IA; Farmland Foods, Crete, NE; Farmland Foods, Monmouth, IL; Hatfield Quality Meats, Hatfield, PA; Peco Foods, Bay Springs, MS; Tyson Foods Inc, Nashville, AR; Sanderson Farms, Hammond, LA; Indiana Packers Corp., Delphi, IN; Smithfield Packing Co., Tar Heel, NC; and Sanderson Farms, Moultrie, GA. Additional plants are under warnings.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=1937&yr=2007>

23. *August 17, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* — **Scombroid fish poisoning associated with tuna steaks.** Scombroid fish poisoning is an acute illness that occurs after eating fish containing high levels of histamine or other biogenic amines. In late 2006, two outbreaks of scombroid fish poisoning occurred, one in Louisiana and one in Tennessee. To determine the source of the outbreaks and to implement control measures, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the state health departments in Louisiana and Tennessee conducted epidemiologic investigations, and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) conducted traceback investigations of the product. The results of those investigations indicated that the outbreaks in Louisiana and Tennessee were associated with tuna steaks from Indonesia and Vietnam, respectively. The majority of seafood eaten in the U.S. is imported.

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5632a2.htm>

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Water Sector

24. *August 20, Associated Press* — **Nonnative mussels threaten Western water.** An invasive mussel that made its way west of the Rocky Mountains seven months ago is spreading rapidly, just the scenario most feared by officials running water systems supplying millions of people across the Southwest. The thumb-sized quagga mussels, which can clog pipes and gum up waterworks, have already been discovered in lakes Mead, Havasu and Mojave on the Colorado River and in two major aqueducts that supply water to Southern California and Arizona. Officials announced this month that they had also found tiny quagga larvae in Lake Powell on the Arizona–Utah border, although no adults have yet been found. Most interior lakes have staved off infestations — for the time being. Quagga mussels are almost impossible to totally exterminate. The small clam-like creatures damage can cause millions of dollars in damage to water facilities. The big fear is that the mussels will infiltrate canals and pipelines feeding the Southwest's vast system of reservoirs and water treatment plants, sending maintenance costs skyrocketing. In March about 800 mussels were found in the 242-mile Colorado River Aqueduct, which supplies water to 18 million people. Portions of it were closed for 10 days in July to inspect the system and destroy larvae.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/20246340/>

Public Health Sector

25. *August 21, ABC News* — Online 'pandemic' a virtual gold mine for epidemiologists.

Widespread quarantines. Bodies by the hundreds lying dead in the streets. A mass hysteria that converted once-bustling cities into ghost towns. Such was the scenario in the fall of 2005, when a plague known as Corrupted Blood swept across the land. The calamity did not occur in the real world. But the pandemiclike event that occurred in September 2005 in the online multiplayer realm of World of Warcraft has some researchers interested in whether such online environs could be used to predict the spread of infectious diseases in the real world. World of Warcraft is a game in which players from around the world log on, interact and develop their characters in a fantasy setting. "Here, we have a large-scale computer simulation where we know everything about the disease, but its spread is determined largely by human behavior," said study co-author Eric Lofgren, a graduate student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. "This is all free from the fact that you can't do this sort of thing in the real world because it would be horrifyingly unethical."

Source: <http://www.abcnews.com/Health/Germs/story?id=3502957&page=1>

26. *August 21, The Age (Australia)* — Second Bali death blamed on bird flu. A second woman may have died from bird flu on the Indonesian resort island of Bali. Preliminary test results show the 28-year-old had the H5N1 strain, an Indonesian Health Ministry staffer says. If more reliable tests being carried out in Jakarta confirm the results, she will be the second person to have died in Bali from the virus within two weeks. The island's first confirmed victim was a 29-year-old woman, who died on August 12. Her five-year-old daughter died on August 3 after suffering flu-like symptoms, but her body was cremated before samples were taken for testing. The woman who died on Tuesday, August 21, in Bali's Sanglah Hospital was a poultry distributor from Tabanan District.

Source: <http://www.theage.com.au/news/World/Second-Bali-death-blamed-on-bird-flu/2007/08/21/1187462238146.html>

27. *August 20, St. Jude Children* — Influenza survey uncovers key differences between bird flu and human flu. Scientists have found key features that distinguish influenza viruses found in birds from those that infect humans. The St. Jude team used a mathematical technique to identify specific amino acid building blocks that are statistically more likely to appear in avian influenza virus proteins and those that are more likely to be in human influenza virus proteins. The differences in these amino acids can be used as markers to track changes in H5N1 avian influenza strains that threaten humans. "Influenza mutates rapidly, so that any marker that is not the same in bird flu but remains stable in human flu is likely to be important," said David Finkelstein, research associate at the St. Jude Hartwell Center for Bioinformatics and Biotechnology. "If human specific markers start accumulating in bird flu viruses that infect humans, that suggests that the bird flu may be adapting to humans and could spread." The researchers also found that various strains of the H5N1 virus that have infected humans are more likely to contain human markers than are H5N1 strains that have not infected humans. Only occasionally have H5N1 samples obtained from human patients shown any of these markers, and no H5N1 strain has permanently acquired any of them.

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/08/070820161748.htm>

28. *August 19, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory* — **Nano-based biosensor may get help first to those who need it most.** Scientists at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory have discovered a way to increase the sensitivity of test strips that will enable creation of a portable biosensor that can address a major concern associated with incidents involving chemical or nerve agents — the need to quickly distinguish between individuals who have been exposed and the "worried well." The sensor components resemble a pregnancy test strip and a small glucose testing meter. The researchers are working with an "electrochemical immunoassay approach." This involves using the antibody of a specific disease — a protein produced in response to an invading bacterium or other foreign substance — to attract the biomarker. Researchers found that labeling a second antibody with a nanoparticle amplifies the biomarker's signal. Greater amplification means more precise readings. "The electrochemical signal is amplified several hundreds to thousand times because of the metal ions," researchers said. "This level of sensitivity will allow detectors to be very precise in identifying the concentration of biomarkers in biological samples."

Source: <http://www.pnl.gov/news/release.asp?id=265>

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Government Sector

29. *August 21, Courant (CT)* — **Suspicious powder discovered outside courthouse.** A preliminary test of a white, powder-like substance discovered outside the criminal courthouse Monday morning, August 20, in Danielson, CT. showed that it was not a biohazardous material, police said. The substance, which delayed the opening of the Superior Court building until 10:25 a.m. EDT Monday, was shipped to a lab for thorough analysis, said Lt. J. Paul Vance of the state police. A judge ordered that the courthouse remain closed after the substance was spotted. Two ball-shaped, duct-taped packages of the white substance appeared to have been hurled against the courthouse wall, he said. Troopers with biohazard training removed the packages, Vance said.

Source: http://www.courant.com/news/custom/topnews/hcu-dancourtpowder-0820.0,5651402.story?coll=hc_sports_highschool_util

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Emergency Services Sector

30. *August 21, Electronic Business* — **Emerging technology: Software-defined radio technology for emergency communications.** Mobile gear isn't keeping pace with galloping wireless technology. One potential answer is software-defined radio technology (SDR). With SDR, software replaces the controlling hardware and new standards or frequencies are added through software upgrades. Multiband mobile phones exist today, but they use hardware to process different signals. SDR uses an analog-to-digital converter to change signals into a digital format so the handset software can process it. Using SDR technology, the same mobile phone could work across any geographic area worldwide, with any standard or frequency. In its

ideal form, an SDR handset would access any radio signal floating in the air — walkie-talkies, Bluetooth, HAM radio, TV programs, cordless phones, radio, Internet and remote control toys, to name a few. The military and emergency services grasped the benefits and have been driving the technology. In Europe, the European Defense Agency has provided nearly \$130 million for a five-country joint research project aimed at enhancing SDR. Rescue services are expected to be early adopters. In a disaster, when tight coordination is essential, one device could communicate with a police radio, with first responders using walkie-talkies or with cell phones.

Source: <http://www.edn.com/article/CA6470301.html>

31. *August 20, USA TODAY* — Atlanta becomes a template for improving emergency services.

When the emergency medical system in Atlanta, GA, needed rescuing, Mayor Shirley Franklin started issuing orders that have resulted in lifesaving changes to the city's emergency system. She began looking for ways to hold emergency crews more accountable, and last year she ordered all 8,000 city employees — including herself — to be trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Thanks to those efforts and a program created in Atlanta by Emory University and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention, the city is saving more residents who collapse of sudden cardiac arrest. Since September 2005, the survival rate for such patients in Atlanta has jumped from less than three percent to 15 percent. That's well above the six to 10 percent survival rate for most cities that was identified in a 2003 analysis by USA TODAY. The program — known as Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival, or CARES — is a five-year, \$1.5 million CDC project launched three years ago. It was partly inspired by the USA TODAY investigation, which found that emergency medical systems in most of the nation's 50 largest cities were fragmented, inconsistent, and slow.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2007-08-20-ems-atlanta_N.htm

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

32. *August 21, IDG News Service* — Gunplay blamed for Internet slowdown. Internet service providers in the U.S. experienced a service slowdown Monday, August 20, after fiber optic cables near Cleveland were apparently sabotaged by gunfire. TeliaSonera AB, which lost the northern leg of its U.S. network to the cut, said that the outage began around 4 p.m. EDT Sunday night. When technicians pulled up the affected cable, it appeared to have been shot. "Somebody had been shooting with a gun or a shotgun into the cable," said Anders Olausson, a TeliaSonera spokesperson. The damage affected a large span of cable, more than two-thirds of a mile long, near Cleveland, TeliaSonera said. The company declined to name the service provider whose lines had been cut.

Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9031758&intsrc=news_ts_head

33. *August 20, eWeek* — Skype blackout fixed, caused by massive PC restart. The blackout that left millions of Skype users without the ability to make Internet phone calls from their PCs for two days was, ironically, triggered by the service's users. Skype spokesperson Villu Arak wrote in a blog post Monday, August 20, that the outage, which was resolved August 18, happened after a massive restart of its users' computers across the globe as they "re-booted after receiving

a routine set of patches through Windows Update." Arak said the high number of restarts in a short time period clogged Skype's network, causing a flood of log-in requests. These, combined with the lack of peer-to-peer (P2P) network resources, "prompted a chain reaction that had a critical impact." While Skype's P2P network does have the ability to fix itself for just such problems, Arak said the outage revealed a software bug within the network resource allocation algorithm that prevented the self-healing function from properly working. This bug was not, he said, created via malicious activity.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1895.2173171.00.asp>

- 34. August 20, ComputerWorld — First exploit appears for Patch Tuesday vulnerability.** A security researcher has published the first exploit against one of the 14 vulnerabilities patched last week by Microsoft Corp., security company Symantec Corp. has warned customers. In a posting to the Full Disclosures security mailing list, Alla Bezroutchko, a senior security engineer at Brussels-based Scanit NV/SA, spelled out JavaScript code that crashes Internet Explorer 6.0 on Windows 2000 and Windows XP Service Pack 2. Bezroutchko's proof of concept exploits the critical bug in XML Core Services that was patched by MS07-042. That update, one of six rated "critical" by Microsoft, affected every currently supported version of Windows, including the new Vista operating system. Symantec warned users of its DeepSight threat-alert network to expect Bezroutchko's crude exploit to be polished soon. "The current proof of concept will crash Internet Explorer; however, it is likely that this code will be modified to produce a code-execution exploit in the near future," read the Symantec warning.

Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9031601&intsrc=hm_list

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